WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating a host having hyperlipidemia comprising administering to the host an effective amount of a compound having the formula:

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) H or acetyl,
- b) $P(O)(OH)_2$,
- c) P(O)(OH)(OM), wherein M is selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal salt and an alkaline earth metal salt,
- d) P(O)OM₂ wherein M is each independently selected from the group consisting of alkali metal salts and alkaline earth metal salts,
- e) Alkyl of 1 to 12 carbon atoms having 0 to 6 double bonds, said alkyl selected from the group consisting of substituted, unsubstituted, straight chain and branched alkyls,
- f) (CH_2) n morpholine, wherein n=1-4,
- g) morpholinomethylphenyl, ortho-aminophenyl or ortho-hydroxyphenyl,
- h) (CH_2) n $COOR_2$ wherein n=1-4, R_2 is each selected from the group consisting of H, an alkali metal salt, an alkaline earth metal salt, NH_4 + and $N+(R_3)_4$ wherein R_3 is each

independently selected from the group consisting of H and an alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and

- i) COR_1 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of H, $(CH_2)n$ CH_3 wherein n=0-6, $(CH_2)n$ $COOR_2$ wherein n=1-4 and R_2 is each selected from the group consisting of H, an alkali metal salt, an alkaline earth metal salt, NH_4 + and $N+(R_3)_4$, and $(CH_2)n$ $N+(R_3)_4$, wherein n=1-4 and R_3 is each independently selected from the group consisting of H and an alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms.
- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is used in combination with other chemotherapeutic agents.
- 3. The method of claim 1 wherein R is selected from the group consisting of H and acetyl.
- 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the hyperlipidemia is selected from the group consisting of hypertriglyceridemia and hypercholesterolemia.
- 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the daily dose range of the compound is from about 0.5 mg to about 5000 mg.
- 6. The method of claim 1 further including incorporating the compound in a dosage form selected from the group consisting of a tablet, a troche, a dispersion, a suspension, a solution, a capsule, a patch, a syrup, an elixir and a wafer.
- 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the dosage form contains at least 0.1% by weight of the compound.
- 8. A method for protecting a host from developing hyperlipidemia comprising administering to the host an effective amount of a compound having the formula:

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) H or acetyl,
- b) $P(O)(OH)_2$,
- c) P(O)(OH)(OM), wherein M is selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal salt and an alkaline earth metal salt,
- d) P(O)OM₂ wherein M is each independently selected from the group consisting of alkali metal salts and alkaline earth metal salts,
- e) Alkyl of 1 to 12 carbon atoms having 0 to 6 double bonds, said alkyl selected from the group consisting of substituted, unsubstituted, straight chain and branched alkyls,
- f) (CH₂)n morpholine, wherein n=1-4,
- g) morpholinomethylphenyl, ortho-aminophenyl or ortho-hydroxyphenyl,
- h) (CH₂)n COOR₂ wherein n=1-4, R₂ is each selected from the group consisting of H, an alkali metal salt, an alkaline earth metal salt, NH₄ + and N+(R₃)₄ wherein R₃ is each independently selected from the group consisting of H and an alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and
- i) COR_1 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of H, $(CH_2)n$ CH_3 wherein n=0-6, $(CH_2)n$ $COOR_2$ wherein n=1-4 and R_2 is each selected from the group consisting of H, an alkali metal salt, an alkaline earth metal salt, NH_4 + and $N+(R_3)_4$, and $(CH_2)n$ $N+(R_3)_4$,

wherein n=1-4 and R_3 is each independently selected from the group consisting of H and an alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

- 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the compound is used in combination with other chemotherapeutic agents.
- 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the other chemotherapeutic agents are selected from the group consisting of Cyclosporin A and tacrolimus.
- 11. The method of claim 8 wherein R is selected from the group consisting of H and acetyl.
- 12. The method of claim 8 wherein said host is at risk for developing hyperlipidemia due to recent solid organ or bone marrow transplantation.
- 13. The method of claim 8 wherein the daily dose range of the compound is from about 0.5 mg to about 5000 mg.
- 14. The method of claim 8 further including incorporating the compound in a dosage form selected from the group consisting of a tablet, a troche, a dispersion, a suspension, a solution, a capsule, a patch, a syrup, an elixir and a wafer.
- 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the dosage form contains at least 0.1% by weight of the compound.